

Prepared and submitted by:

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Talking points per SJ6:

- Our intent is not to create dissention among communities, but maintain a level playing field while awaiting results of an unbiased study that will provide a comprehensive analysis of potential impacts to the State of Montana.

The following is per the scope of work outlined by the Montana Department of Transportation, scheduled to be completed by consultant HDR in July 2009:

Impact of Increased Canadian Economic Development on Northern Montana Highways

Background: Recent economic developments in the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are generating changes in commercial traffic across border crossings into Montana and along associated north-south highway corridors. In response to these developments, area elected officials and other leaders have called for expanded port services and have asked Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and its provincial counterparts to improve highways on these corridors. MDT is sponsoring this research study to determine how economic growth and change, as well as revised port services, may affect traffic volumes on Montana highways. This information will be used to inform decisions regarding future research and infrastructure needs.

- The route from the Port of Morgan south on US 191 through Malta to US 19 and US 87 into Billings is a direct connection to US Interstates 90 and 94 is currently part of the **National Highway System**, adopted by the US Congress in 1994 and thus, has the ability to utilize federal highway funds easily and more directly.
- Port Statistics (shown below) prove the Port of Morgan has significantly more commercial truck traffic over a 12 year period. **Total truck traffic 1995-2007 at Port of Morgan = 21,653, compared to 5,785 at Port of Turner for same timeframe.** The North/South Corridor provides an efficient trade route to Saskatchewan communities of Swift Current, Meadow Lake with connectors to Saskatoon and Regina. Resolutions of support have been authorized by the following Saskatchewan communities: City of Regina, Towns of Meadow Lake, North Battle Ford, Rosetown, Cadillac, and Val Marie in addition to numerous evidence of support from individuals and businesses along the route.
- The **TransCanada Keystone XL** 1,980 mile 36-inch pipeline that will begin in Hardisty, Alberta extending southeast through Saskatchewan will enter Montana just east of the Port of Morgan in 2010. This route and Port of Entry will be a key to this \$12 billion dollar construction project that will transport Canadian crude oil for refinement in Port Arthur, Texas.